



STATE SENATOR

**KEN SIKKEMA**

---

**CAPITOL FAX**

Friday, January 31, 2003

**SB 1 REPORTED FROM TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY COMMITTEE**

Legislation sponsored by Senator Gerald Van Woerkom, R-Norton Shores, to provide adequate oversight of the End User Common Line (EUCL) fee billed to consumers by local telephone providers was favorably reported out of the Senate Technology and Energy Committee on January 29. Senate Bill 1 would require local telephone providers to justify the EUCL fee to the Michigan Public Service Commission. The commission would then have the authority to determine if the charge was a legitimate business expense on consumers. All phone customers, including senior citizens and multi-line small businesses, are subject to the EUCL fee. SB 1 will now be sent to the full Senate for consideration.

**JOINT COMMITTEE CREATED TO SPUR ECONOMIC GROWTH**

This week a bicameral committee was established to make recommendations on how to create new business investments in Michigan that will create good-paying jobs for working families. The Joint Committee on Business Competitiveness was created to look at ways to make Michigan more competitive and study the issues affecting Michigan's economy. The committee has five members from each chamber and will issue its report to the Legislature by September 1. The committee will consider the impact of tax policy, government regulations, technological needs, national trends, international trade and job preparedness affecting business competitiveness in Michigan. Committee hearings will be conducted across the state and will take testimony from a wide range of interested parties.

**RESOLUTION SEEKS INCREASE IN FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION FUNDS**

Due to the increased difficulty of meeting the transportation needs of Michigan residents, a resolution was introduced this week urging Congress to appropriate a higher rate of return on the state's transportation funding. Senate Resolution 6, introduced by Senator Jud Gilbert, R-Algonac, urges Congress to establish a minimum rate of return of 95 percent of Michigan's federal transportation funding for highway and transit programs. Michigan currently receives approximately 90.5 cents in return for every highway dollar that is sent to Washington, and only 50 cents for each transit dollar sent through taxes – an amount that, according to the resolution, is inadequate for the state's overall transportation needs. The Senate Transportation Committee will consider the resolution before it is sent to the full Senate.

The *Capitol Fax* by Senator Ken Sikkema is designed to provide residents and organizations with a timely update of legislative activity in Lansing. If you have any questions, do not wish to receive this fax, or would like to receive this via e-mail, please contact Senator Sikkema's office.

Phone: (800) 774-1174. Fax: (517) 373-5236. E-mail: [senksikkema@senate.state.mi.us](mailto:senksikkema@senate.state.mi.us)

State Capitol, Lansing, Michigan 48913